

Wabash Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2019

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



**Pulse
of Wabash**

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Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Mike Almon acoustic guitar concert planned

Come and listen to a variety of acoustic guitar music from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 35 E. Market St. Call 260-563-4475 for more information.

Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet planned

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St., will be hosting Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet.

'Paint Like Bob Ross' at the NMPL

Two "Paint Like Bob Ross" classes are scheduled in December at the North Manchester Public Library (NMPL). The first, "Seasons Greetings," will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. The second,

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Indiana leaders respond to impeachment charges

House Democrats unveil two charges Tuesday against Trump

BY ROB BURGESS
and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment Tuesday against President Donald Trump, declaring he "betrayed the

nation" in his actions toward Ukraine as they pushed toward historic proceedings that are certain to help define his presidency and shape the 2020 election.

The specific charges aimed at removing the 45th president of the U.S.: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

"It's clear House Democrats have wanted to impeach the president since day one, so today's announcement is no surprise. But after count-

less closed-door depositions and weeks of public hearings, there is still no evidence that justifies impeachment. These baseless articles of impeachment represent the worst kind of partisan politics, and the country deserves better. It's time for Congress to get back to work and stop wasting the American people's time and money on this divisive charade," stated Second District Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, on Tuesday in response to a

Plain Dealer request.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of the impeachment inquiry committees, said somberly at the U.S. Capitol that they were upholding their solemn oath to defend the Constitution. Trump responded angrily on Twitter: "WITCH HUNT!"

"One thing is clear, the far-left has been desperate to get rid of President Trump since

See **TRUMP** / Page A2

'Indiana Clean Yard Gold Level' awarded



PHOTO PROVIDED

AWARD: From left, Hani Sharaya, IDEM senior environmental engineer, presents Kelly Kerlin, owner of Car Recyclers, the "Indiana Clean Yard Gold Level" award.

Car Recyclers in North Manchester recognized for environmental stewardship

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) awarded Car Recyclers, 13685 N. Indiana 13, North Manchester, with its second "Indiana Clean Yard Gold Level" certification in recognition of the company's efforts to protect the environment, according to Barry Sneed, IDEM public information officer.

Car Recyclers was first given the award, which expires every two years, in 2017.

"I am pleased to see companies like Car Recyclers help lead the industry,"

stated Bruno Pigott, IDEM commissioner. "This is a great example of how we can work with businesses and help them find ways to improve their processes while protecting Hoosiers and our environment."

In a phone interview with the Plain Dealer on Tuesday, Kelly Kerlin, Car Recyclers owner, said the award was a recognition that they follow best management practices for the handling of materials.

Kerlin said in addition to recycling batteries, several fluids that come from the cars including oil, transmission fluid and brake fluid is used in their waste

oil furnaces.

"We can reuse that, as well as the gasoline that gets used in the vehicles that we use around the facility," he said.

Kerlin said the award involved copious bookkeeping and documentation.

"We have to ensure nothing improperly leaves the property. In other words, no oil gets spilled on the group, no anti-freeze, that kind of thing," he said.

Kerlin said he had visited other facilities which were "run like old school junkyards."

"There's oil all over the ground. It's terrible the way some people treat the

ground they walk on. All my people are educated in knowing how to take care of it. We have spill kits everywhere around the place in case there was an accident of some kind that they know what to do to clean them up," he said. "It sounds easy. It's not as easy as it sounds."

'Indiana Clean Yard' program

The "Indiana Clean Yard" program was established in 2009 as a collaborative effort by IDEM and the Automotive Recyclers

See **CLEAN** / Page A3

Braun, Walorski respond to USMCA deal

Democrats, White House forge new North American trade agreement

BY ROB BURGESS
and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

House Democrats and the White House announced a deal on a modified North American trade pact, handing President Donald Trump a major Capitol Hill win Tuesday on the same day that impeachment charges were announced against him. Both sides hailed the deal as a win for American workers.

They said the revamped U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was a significant improvement over the original North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), with Democrats crowing about winning stronger provisions on enforcing the agreement while Republicans said it will help keep the economy humming along.

"There is no question of course that this trade agreement is much better than NAFTA," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in announcing the agreement, saying the pact is "infinitely better than what was initially proposed by the administration."

Trump said the revamped trade pact will "be great" for the United States.

"It will be the best and most important trade deal ever made by the USA. Good for everybody — Farmers, Manufacturers, Energy, Unions — tremendous support. Importantly, we will finally end our Country's worst Trade Deal, NAFTA!," the president said in a tweet.

The deal announcement came on the same morning that Democrats outlined impeachment charges against Trump. The trade pact is Trump's top Capitol Hill priority along with funding for his long-sought border fence.

In Mexico City, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland joined Mexican officials to sign the updated version of the USMCA, at a ceremony in Mexico City's centuries-old National Palace.

Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard congratulated the negotiators for reaching a second set of agreements to answer U.S. concerns about

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Honeywell Foundation's Annual Winter Bash draws near

Various locations will host events

Jan. 2 and 3, 2020

Staff Report

The Annual Winter Break Bash, hosted by the Honeywell Foundation, will take

place Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 at various Honeywell Foundation venues including the Honeywell Center and Charley Creek Gardens.

All Winter Break Bash activities are free and open to the public. Lead sponsorship

for Winter Bash is provided by Terrell Realty Group, LLC. The associate sponsor is American Huey 369.

"Winter Bash is a great way for students to live up their winter break by attending these fun-filled days," stated the release.

Honeywell Center

■ Art project with Candie Cooper will take place each day beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Day 1

■ "Stencil Our State": Participating children will

play with paint and learn to stencil. Each will complete a self-decorated wall hanging of the state of Indiana.

Day 2

■ "Fantasy Lantern":

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Bill Cosby sex assault verdict upheld; spokesman lashes out

BY MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

Bill Cosby lost his bid to overturn his sexual assault conviction Tuesday, as an appeals court upheld the verdict in the first celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

In its ruling, the Superior Court affirmed the right of prosecutors to call other accusers to bolster their case – the same issue fought over in movie mogul Harvey Weinstein’s sexual assault trial, now set for Jan. 6.

“This decision is a reminder that no one is above the law,” Andrea Constand, the victim in Cosby’s case, said in a text message to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Cosby’s lawyers had complained that the judge had let five women testify at last year’s retrial in suburban Philadelphia, although he had let just one woman testify at the first trial in 2017.

But the Superior Court said their testimony was evidence of Cosby’s “unique sexual

assault playbook” and undermined any claim that he “was unaware of or mistaken about victim’s failure to consent.”

The prosecutor who took the case to trial praised Constand for inspiring other victims to come forward against powerful men. She went to police long before the #MeToo movement saw prominent men in entertainment, business, media and other fields brought down over their treatment of women.

TRUMP

Continued from A1

day one. That much has not changed. I take all of my responsibilities very seriously and will continue to evaluate the facts as we get them, but my primary focus will remain on the work Hoosiers elected me to do, including passing USMCA, reining in health care costs, taking care of veterans, keeping Americans safe and secure and continuing to grow our economy,” stated Sen. Todd Young, R-Indiana, on Tuesday in response to a Plain Dealer request.

Voting is expected in a matter of days by the Judiciary Committee, and by Christmas in the full House. The charges, if approved, would then be sent to the Senate. The Republican majority in the Senate would be unlikely to convict Trump. But first, there would be a trial filled with bitter accusations and recriminations just as voters in Iowa and other early presidential primary states begin making their choices.

“In my mind, now that it looks like it’s going to come to the Senate ... I think this will be the first time the president will be able to make his case and how that’s going to be conducted,” said Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, in a conference call Tuesday attended by the Plain Dealer.

In the formal articles announced Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign power in “corrupting” the U.S. election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his political rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, while withholding U.S. military aid as leverage. That benefited Russia over the U.S. as America’s ally fought Russian aggression, the Democrats said.

Trump then obstructed Congress by ordering current and former officials to defy House subpoenas for testimony – some testified anyway – and by blocking access to documents, the charges say.

By his conduct, Trump “demonstrated he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office,” the nine-page impeachment resolution says.

“Some of this stuff that’s being discussed was inappropriate on the part of the president, not impeachable. ... I wouldn’t have done it myself. Many others would feel the same way. Simply because it complicates things. I just don’t think it crosses the threshold by all the measurements in terms of being impeachable,” said Braun. “I would say it was unwise.”

When asked by the Plain Dealer if similar behavior by a potential future Democratic president would be impeachable or not, Braun said he would consider that before voting.

“I think when you look at however you base your vote where you’re at on this, what’s impeachable or not, you need to make sure that standard is done fairly if the roles were reversed down the road,” he said. “I think that is difficult in this day and time. As polarized as we’ve become in this country on any significant issue. It would be incumbent on every senator and hopefully, we’re not going to cross this threshold again soon. But to remember, yes, what you did then you should not look at it any differently down the road. Especially if somebody is being impeached or considered impeachment of the other party.”

After decrying the Democrats’ announcement, Trump headed to Pennsylvania for a reelection campaign rally.

First, he tweeted, “To Impeach a President who has proven through results, including producing perhaps the strongest economy in our country’s history, to have one of the most successful presidencies ever, and most importantly, who has done NOTHING wrong, is sheer Political Madness.”

The outcome, though, appears increasingly set as the House presses ahead toward impeachment as it has only three times in history against U.S. presidents.

In outlining the charges, Democrats said they had no choice but to act because Trump has shown a pattern of behavior that, if left unchecked, poses risks to the democratic process ahead of the 2020 election.

“Our president holds the ultimate public trust. When he betrays that trust and puts himself before country, he endangers the Constitution; he endangers our democracy; he endangers our national security,” said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., the Judiciary chairman, announcing the charges before a portrait of George Washington. “Our next election is at risk. ... That is why we must act now.”

Nadler said, “No one, not even the president, is above the law.”

Chairman Adam Schiff of the Intelligence Committee said, “We stand here today because the president’s abuse of power leaves us with no choice.”

Trump’s allies immediately plunged into the fight that will extend into the new year. White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said Democrats are trying to “overthrow” the administration. Campaign manager Brad Parscale said Democrats are “putting on this political theater because they don’t have a viable candidate for 2020 and they know it.” The president’s son, Eric, embraced his father’s penchant for name calling, assailing Pelosi and “her swamp creatures.”

In drafting the articles of impeachment, Pelosi faced a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution’s bar of “treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Some liberal lawmakers wanted more expansive charges encompassing the findings from special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Centrist Democrats preferred to keep the impeachment articles more focused on Trump’s actions toward Ukraine.

The final resolution attempted to find common ground by linking the findings in the Ukraine inquiry to the Mueller probe in two lines, without specifically mention the Russia investigation.

It said the abuse of power was consistent with “previous invitations of foreign interference in United States elections” while the obstruction charge was consistent with Trump’s previous efforts to undermine “United States

government investigations into foreign interference.”

As the House chairmen arrived at a closed-door meeting of the chamber’s Democrats after the announcement, they were greeted with applause.

Democratic leaders say Trump put his political interests above those of the nation when he asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July phone call to investigate his rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, and then withheld \$400 million in military aid as the U.S. ally faced an aggressive Russia. They say he then obstructed Congress by stonewalling the House investigation.

The articles say Trump “used the powers of the presidency in a manner that compromised the national security of the United States and undermined the integrity of the United States democratic process.”

The first article, on abuse of power, says Trump “corruptly” solicited Ukraine to investigate his political rivals and required the investigations if the country expected the release of military aide that Congress had already approved as well as a White House meeting with Zelenskyy.

The second article, obstruction of Congress, says that Trump has “directed the unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas” issued by the House, and that such behavior was “offensive to, and subversive of” the Constitution.

“In the history of the republic, no president has ever ordered the complete defiance of an impeachment inquiry or sought to obstruct and impede so comprehensively the ability of the House of Representatives to investigate ‘high crimes and misdemeanors,’” the second article reads.

Trump insisted in a new tweet that when he asked Ukraine’s president “to do us a favor” with the investigations, “‘us’ is a reference to USA, not me!” Democrats, however, say Trump’s meaning could not have been clearer in seeking political dirt on Biden, his possible opponent in the 2020 election.

When asked Monday night if she had enough votes to impeach the Republican president, Pelosi said House member must vote their consciences.






“On an issue like this, we don’t count the votes. People will just make their voices known on it,” Pelosi said at The Wall Street Journal CEO Council.

The next steps are expected to come swiftly after months of investigation into the Ukraine matter, which followed special counsel Mueller’s two-year Russia probe.

In his report, Mueller said he could not determine that Trump’s campaign conspired or coordinated with Russia in the 2016 election. But he said he could not exonerate Trump of obstructing justice and left it for Congress to determine.





Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick, Julie Pace, Laurie Kellman, Matthew Daly and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Chance Snow Showers 27 / 19	 Thursday Mostly Cloudy 40 / 28	 Friday Mostly Cloudy 42 / 33	 Saturday Few Showers 41 / 26	 Sunday Few Snow Showers 30 / 24
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:20 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:02 a.m.

 Full 12/12	 Last 12/18	 New 12/26	 First 1/2
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of snow showers, high temperature of 27°, humidity of 62%. West southwest wind 3 to 9 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 19°. South southeast wind 1 to 10 mph.

Dysphagia most common in older adults

DEAR DOCTOR: Why do the elderly often have a hard time swallowing, and sometimes experience a feeling that food is stuck in their throats? I heard there’s a procedure to stretch the throat. Does it help?

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors



D E A R READER: The condition you’re asking about is known as dysphagia, which refers to difficulty in swallowing. Patients may have trouble starting a swallow, or problems with the esophagus, which is the muscular tube that connects the throat with the stomach.

The origins of the disorder fall into several basic categories. There are neurological causes, such as stroke, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, dementia and head injury. Certain muscular conditions can affect the proper functioning of the esophagus. So does obstruction, which can result from a narrowing of the esophagus, or from inflammation. These can be caused by head and neck cancers, radiation therapy, tuberculosis and chronic acid reflux.

Although dysphagia can affect people of all ages, you’re correct that it’s seen more often in older adults. This is commonly due to age-related changes in the body, such as loss of muscle tone, mass and strength, and changes to nerve function. Still, dysphagia is not considered to be a normal sign of aging.

Understanding dysphagia starts with the mechanics of swallowing. We tend to think of it as the “gulp” that empties the mouth. But that’s just the first step of a complex process. A successful swallow moves the contents of your mouth through the throat, and all the way down to the stomach. This happens when a ring of muscles known as the upper esophageal sphincter and located at the lower end of the throat, open. Next, coordinated contractions along the length of the esophagus send the food to a second ring of muscles known as the lower esophageal sphincter. This leads to the stomach. At the same time, muscles and specialized structures within the throat prevent anything

from getting into the nose, voice box and windpipe.

Symptoms of dysphagia can include pain while swallowing, struggling or being unable to swallow, feeling as though food is stuck in the esophagus, coughing or gagging when trying to swallow, regurgitation or frequent heartburn. Some people may experience drooling or develop a hoarse voice. Diagnosis of the condition includes a physical exam and any of a variety of tests that may include X-rays, muscle tests and swallowing studies.

Treatment depends on the specific cause of the condition. Patients may be asked to change their diet, use certain exercises and techniques that help with swallowing coordination, or manage acid reflux with medication.

The procedure you asked about, known as esophageal dilation, is useful when dysphagia results from a narrowing of the esophagus. It involves the use of an endoscope and either plastic dilators or a special balloon to slowly and gradually stretch the esophagus. Complications, which are rare, include bleeding and tears or holes in the esophagus. In most cases, the patient is able to resume normal eating and drinking the following day.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.



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READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

MONDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
01-04-11-18-45
Estimated jackpot: \$172,500
Cash4Life
01-30-42-47-52, Cash Ball: 1
Daily Three-Midday
4-8-4, SB: 3
Daily Three-Evening
1-5-3, SB: 5
Daily Four-Midday
9-4-9-0, SB: 3
Daily Four-Evening
3-9-5-2, SB: 5
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$314 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

TUESDAY'S METALS

Aluminum..... .80
Copper..... .2.71
Lead..... .85
Zinc..... .1.01
Gold..... 1,463.13
Silver..... 16.64
Platinum..... 919.76

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices
Tuesday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$8.82.
Soybeans: \$3.93.

THE ROXY MOVIE THEATER

Showtimes for Thursday, December 6- Thursday, December 12
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Midway (PG13) Fri: 7:05, 10:05 Sat: 1:00, 4:10, 7:05, 10:05 Sun: 1:00, 4:10, 7:05 Mon- Thurs: 7:05	A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG) Sat: 1:10, 4:05, 7:15, 10:00 Fri: 7:10, 10:00 Sun: 1:10, 4:05, 7:15 Mon- Thurs: 7:15
Knives Out (PG13) Fri: 6:45, 9:40 Sat: 12:50, 4:00, 6:45, 9:40 Sun: 12:50, 4:00, 6:45 Mon- Thurs: 6:45	Frozen II in 2D (PG) Fri: 6:55, 9:30 Sat: 1:20, 3:50, 6:55, 9:30 Sun: 1:20, 3:50, 6:55 Mon- Thurs: 6:55
Ford V Ferrari (PG13) Fri: 6:35, 9:50 • Sat: 12:40, 3:40, 6:35, 9:50 Sun: 12:40, 3:40, 6:35 • Mon- Thurs: 6:35	

For more information please call
765-460-5322
or visit us online at www.roxyperu.com
Located at 100 Roxy Lane, North edge of Peru

A Holiday Invitation
Annual Christmas Cantata
First United Methodist Church
Sunday, Dec. 15 3 pm and 7 pm
Choir and orchestra with harp prelude 30 minutes prior
to each performance
Refreshments following.



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GRANDSTAFF
HENTGEN
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Bender Chapel, North Manchester • 260-982-4393
Roann Chapel • 765-833-5591
Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash • 260-563-0421
www.grandstaff-hentgen.com

Larry Joe Sumpter
Oct. 16, 1940 - Dec. 10, 2019

Larry Joe Sumpter, 79, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 3:15 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 at his home. He was born Oct. 16, 1940 in Wabash, to Joseph and Maxine (Harrier) Sumpter.



Larry graduated from Wabash High School in 1959. He married Pauline R. Murphy in Akron, Indiana on Aug. 2, 1963. He worked at Mississinewa Reservoir 11 years, Honeywell Inc. in Wabash, and retired from Chrysler in Kokomo, Indiana after 33 years. He was a member of the Wabash Church of Christ. He enjoyed camping, traveling, fishing, and spending time with his kids and grandkids.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline R. Sumpter of Wabash, 2 daughters, Lori Sumpter of Peru, Indiana and Billie Jo

Harner of Wabash, 3 grandchildren, Alexandria Sumpter of Peru, Jared Joseph Harner of Wabash, and Ashley Sumpter Music of Peru, and his brother, Mike (Linda) Sumpter of Warsaw, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son-in-law, Glen Allen Music.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash, with Josh Fennell officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4 - 7 p.m. Friday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Wabash Church of Christ. The memorial guest book for Larry may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Logan A. Herbert

Logan A. Herbert, 79, Ocala, Florida, formerly of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away on Nov. 29, 2019 in Summerfield, Florida.

The loving memory of Logan A. Herbert will be forever cherished by his wife, L. Maxine Herbert; stepson, David Fisher; 3 stepdaughters, Dianna (Dan)

Hoffman, Regina (Dave) Kilty, and Janice Houlihan; 2 nephews, Charles Herbert and Michael Herbert; 2 nieces, Lisa (Carl) Inman and Alice (Brian) Lague; 5 step-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

BASH

Continued from A1

Warm up winter nights with a handmade paper lantern. Participating children will put their spin on a traditional Chinese lantern by decorating them with crazy paint techniques, a tassel, and then light them up at the end of class.

Roller skating in the Honeywell Rink from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Movies in the Ford Theater each day at 1 and 7 p.m. include "The Secret Life of

Pets 2" on Thursday, Jan. 2, and "Toy Story 4" on Friday, Jan. 3.

Charley Creek Gardens

Craft making will take place each day from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, children will make a craft dragon on Thursday, Jan. 2 and a Chinese noise-maker on Friday, Jan. 3.

For more information about Winter Bash, visit the Honeywell Center website at www.honeywellcenter.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

CALENDAR

Continued from A1

another "Poinsettias" session, will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. This class requires registration and a \$20 materials fee upon registering. Space is limited. Register at the front desk or call 260-982-4773.

Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 12

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester.

Charley Creek Gardens to host 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll

Charley Creek Gardens will host its 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll, open to the public from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 to Monday, Dec. 23 at 551 N. Miami St. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available at 518 N. Wabash St.

Fairy House Workshop set for Dec. 14

The program will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Salamonie Interpretive Center at Salamonie Lake, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The cost is \$5 per person payable day of the event. Materials will be provided, with extra materials available for purchase. Advanced registration is required by calling 260-468-2127. Limited space is available. The suggested age for the program is 10 and above, and those under 18 should be accompanied by an adult.

LaFontaine Lions to host Santa Breakfast

The LaFontaine Lions will host a Santa Breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the LaFontaine Community Building. The menu will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy, biscuit, juice, milk and coffee. Santa arrives at 9 a.m. There will be a free-will donation. Proceeds will go towards the LaFontaine United Methodist Church food pantry. Please bring in non-perishable foods. Donations of old glasses and keys will also be accepted.

Christmas concert planned for Dec. 15

A Christmas concert featuring the Wabash sixth grade chorus has been planned from 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Living Well Winchester Center;

239 Bond St. To enjoy the sounds of the season, register by calling 260-563-4475.

'White Christmas' to be shown at the Honeywell Center

"White Christmas" will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17 in the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

'Ask a Teenager' tech basics event planned

Bring your electronic devices and your questions, assistance provided by Heartland Career Center Tech students at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17 at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. Sign-up is requested by calling 260-563-4475.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 17

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Census job opportunities to be discussed

The U.S. Census Bureau has planned a presentation at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 at the Living Well Downtown, 35 E. Market St. to present upcoming census job opportunities. Register for this event by

the agency.

"Indiana Clean Yard Gold Level" is a higher level of recognition for auto salvage recyclers that meet the criteria to be an "Indiana Clean Yard," and make a greater commitment to environmental protection. This is achieved by using Best Management Practices (BMPs) and having a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

To learn more about the Indiana Clean Yard program, contact IDEM's Office of Program Support at 800-451-6027 or visit www.IN.gov/idem/partnerships/2454.htm.

All Hoosier businesses, including auto salvage recyclers, can obtain free, confidential compliance assistance and request confidential site visits by contacting IDEM's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) at 800-988-7901. For more information, visit www.IN.gov/idem/ctap/2370.htm.

Past and current winners

The list of current "Indiana Clean Yard Gold Level" winners, not including Car Recyclers, includes:

- Metro Auto Parts, 2010 to 2020, 2155 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.
- Northlake Auto Recy-



WINNER: Car Recyclers was first given the award, which expires every two years, in 2017.

clers, 2009 to 2019, 105 Industrial Road, Hammond.

■ Pull-A-Part, 2009 to 2017, and 2018 to 2020, 2505 Producers Lane, Indianapolis.

■ Ray's Auto Parts, 2017 to 2021, 9653 S. Indiana 19, Amboy.

■ U-Pull-&-Pay, 2017 to 2021, 940 W. 16th St., Indianapolis.

■ Veldman's Auto Parts, 2016 to 2020, 25926 Indiana 2, South Bend.

The list of current "Indiana Clean Yard" winners includes:

■ Go Green Auto, 2019 to 2021, 1341 W. 29th St., Indianapolis.

■ Kowalski Auto Parts City, 2013 to 2021, 25958 Western Ave., South Bend.

■ Mike's Auto Salvage & Towing, 2013 to 2021, 1732 E. McKinley Highway, Mishawaka.

■ Ray's Auto Parts, 2012 to 2016, 9653 S. Indiana 19, Amboy.

The list of previous "Indiana Clean Yard" winners includes:

■ Adkins, 2009 to 2016, 1010 N. Main St., Martinsville.

■ Legal Chop Shop, 2013 to 2017, 2532 Goshen Road, Fort Wayne.

■ Wright's Auto Parts, 2010 to 2016, 4881 Old Indiana 46, Nashville.

every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 27

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.

DivorceCare presents 'Surviving the Holidays' series

The DivorceCare support group, which meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13, will be offering a DVD series "Surviving the Holidays" through Tuesday, Dec. 17. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-

563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

First Day Hike planned at Salamonie Lake

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Tree Trail. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes welcome. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

January Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Potato soup will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
419 Cannon House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Trump trade tantrum on currency valuations will net American farmers chump change

In the 1970s, a joke made the rounds on college campuses that went something like this. Question: How many surrealists does it take to screw in a light bulb? Answer: fish.

Admittedly a bit esoteric, the joke found favor with those who saw hilarity in an absurdist answer that bore no relation to the question.

It came to mind last week with President Donald Trump's latest trade tantrum, a plan to impose steel and aluminum tariffs on Argentina and Brazil. This action, Trump explained by tweet, would punish the two countries for driving down their currency valuations, which makes their exports more attractive.

Among others being hurt by devalued currencies, the president said, are American farmers.

Let's get this straight: Trump's plan to help American farmers is to punish South American metals companies. Or, put another way: fish.

How trade wars hurt farmers

Let's start with a few facts. The currencies of Brazil and Argentina

are weak not because of manipulation but because their commodity-driven economies are in tatters. Outsiders aren't buying much of their nonfarm products and don't want to invest there.

A metals tariff, moreover, is more likely to hurt American farmers than help.

Farmers are already reeling from Trump's other trade wars as countries such as China retaliate against tariffs by buying agricultural products from places other than the United States. Brazil and Argentina, both big soybean producers, have been among the beneficiaries.

Trump's new tariffs would put more pressure on their economies and potentially push down their currencies further, which, in turn, would make their agriculture exports more attractive.

Perhaps Trump will see the absurdity of this trade policy and plot a quiet retreat. Or perhaps not. With him, you never know.

The larger point is this: If the president has a grand strategy or

endgame on trade, it's not visible to the naked eye. He uses tariffs to make noise, create chaos, get attention and feel a sense of power. Congress ought to pass pending measures to restrict a president's ability to impose tariffs unilaterally.

At home, U.S. steelmakers love tariffs. But domestic manufacturers that buy steel, a much larger part of the economy, are getting hammered – both from higher input costs and from the sheer uncertainty that Trump's policies foment.

U.S. farmers are getting hit even harder thanks to declining exports. In an attempt to buy them off, the administration this year announced \$12 billion in subsidies. That's not much consolation. Farmers would rather have robust sales than Washington handouts. And, so far, red tape and long waits have meant little aid is getting to them.

All of this points to a Trump trade policy best seen as an absurdist joke, an unfunny one at that.

This editorial was first published in USA Today.



Indiana is building a path to healthier moms and babies through collaboration, innovation

Having a baby is usually one of the happiest times in life for a woman and her family. I have been

blessed to share this joyous occasion thousands of times in my career as an obstetrician. But in the State of Indiana, hundreds of babies die before turning one, and many women die of pregnancy-related complications while pregnant or in that first year thereafter.

As an obstetrician/gynecologist, I have walked through situations of loss with my patients, and nothing is more heartbreaking. The opportunity to impact both infant and maternal mortality on a statewide scale was a key factor in my decision to become state health commissioner in 2017. I have visited all 92 counties and met with stakeholders from the health, faith, community and business realms. As daunting as the numbers are, I am more convinced than ever that by working together, we can help more Indiana babies and moms thrive.

We must first understand the challenges before us. Like infant mortality, maternal mortality in our state and across the country disproportionately impacts minority populations. In Indiana, women of color are much more likely to suffer a pregnancy-related death than white women. As with infant mortality, the numbers are alarming, but they don't answer the critical question of "Why?" To do that, and to develop strategies that will prevent future maternal deaths, we are digging deeper.

Through collaborations across state agencies and with our local partners in your community, and legislation accomplished during the past several years, Indiana is now well-positioned to address our poor infant and maternal mortality

rates.

The changes we are putting in place today will be measured for years to come and impact generations of Hoosiers. We are committed to helping families who all want the best for their children. The overwhelming number of volunteers engaged with our efforts shows the true heart and soul being put into this work.

The work is inspiring because of the success stories from our communities.

In Vanderburgh County in 2018, a woman who had struggled with homelessness and drug use delivered twins. Her babies tested positive for THC, the primary ingredient in marijuana, at birth. The family was referred to the Department of Child Services, which referred them to the county's Pre to 3 program, which is funded with a grant from the Indiana State Department of Health to address infant mortality.

Today, the family has housing, the father has a job and the mother has gone back to school to become a nurse. They are active, engaged parents, and their 18-month-old twins are thriving.

We often hear stories like these – of new moms who have improved their health thanks to resources in their community or have overcome substance use disorder and now counsel others – and celebrate as they forge a healthy path forward for themselves and their children.

We are working tirelessly to create more of these stories. But we aren't doing it alone.

The Indiana Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative has been instrumental in the development and implementation of many of the initiatives to address maternal and infant health. More than 400 professional volunteers are involved in this joint collaboration between the Indiana Hospital Association and the state health de-

partment.

Expectant mothers at two-thirds of the Indiana hospitals where babies are delivered are now verbally screened for substance use disorder and supported through the Perinatal Substance Use Disorder and Neonatal Task Force as a result of legislation passed in 2019. If a woman is ever likely to get help, it is when she is pregnant. A woman who has a positive screen receives the services, such as medication-assisted treatment and mental health and social services support, needed to improve both her health and that of her baby.

We also are examining every pregnancy-related death in our state. The Maternal Mortality Review Committee, established through legislation in 2018, is for the first time allowing a deeper dive into each pregnancy-related maternal death so we better understand the causes of that death and can implement evidence-based safety bundles to avert future deaths.

Earlier this year, Indiana joined the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, a national safety initiative that will help us implement patient safety bundles to save maternal lives and decrease adverse complications. Already, 69 of our 86 delivering hospitals are participating. We are working with the Indiana Hospital Association to implement our first safety bundle for hemorrhage at all delivering hospitals.

The Indiana State Department of Health is surveying each delivering hospital to designate the levels of care it can provide to pregnant women and newborns. This work, spurred by legislation passed in 2018, is designed to ensure that pregnant women and babies with risk factors deliver and are cared for at hospitals equipped to address those needs. This will allow Indiana to develop perinatal centers that can help support educa-

letters to the editor

Indiana Chamber: Holcomb the right leader for Indiana

Indiana's economic prospects have been on the rise throughout much of this century. Leading the way the last three years – by listening, gathering the facts and then taking decisive action – has been Gov. Eric Holcomb.

That is why the Indiana Chamber of Commerce has taken the rare step of a statewide endorsement, supporting Holcomb in his re-election bid. The competition, in the form of other states, is not standing still. The best way for Indiana to continue its momentum and move forward is with Holcomb's leadership.

The accomplishments have been many – including dealing with the opioid epidemic to enacting bias crimes legislation and long-term infrastructure funding. The challenges, topped by education and workforce training to meet the needs of our workers and our businesses, are part of the governor's agenda and focus. Positive steps have been taken, with admittedly more work yet to do.

Leadership – at companies, in communities and at the very top of state government – is more important than ever. As we prepare to enter a new decade and continue to make progress toward the Indiana Chamber's Indiana Vision 2025 goals, we are confident that the best road forward is with Gov. Holcomb at the helm.

Tim Haffner
Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 2019-2020 board chairman
Partner, Faegre Baker Daniels in Fort Wayne

Gratitude for 'tremendous care'

On behalf of the Hipsher family, we would like to thank the staff at the Bickford Senior Living facility for the tremendous care they provided for Sondra/Mom. We sincerely appreciate the individualized care, compassion and love they poured out on our family. They helped make the end of this journey less difficult as they provided dignity and grace every step of the way.

The Jerry Hipsher family
Wabash



MSD school board holds meeting Nov. 26

Staff Report

The MSD school board met to conduct business on Tuesday, Nov. 26, according to a press release.

Donations were accepted and approved for a total of \$1,000.

The Southwood Jr./Sr. High School Student Council shared a report.

“Landon Topliff and Payton Deeter shared all of the exciting happenings at Southwood including the blood drive and Elementary Christmas Shopping program to supply gifts for elementary students. The school will conduct a jar wars competition involving

student leadership “repercussions.” One jar example is shaving one of the leader’s head,” stated the release.

There was a Heartland Career Center (HCC) report by Matt Driscoll.

“HCC applied for the non-standard waiver with the Indiana Department of Education to teach the new Precision Agriculture Specialist I and II program starting with the 2020-2021 school year. This is another exciting opportunity for the students attending HCC,” stated the release.

During the superintendent report, it was announced

the Indiana Department of Education released the Fall 2019-2020 Public Corporation Transfer Report. MSD of Wabash County net gains for parent choice transfers with our eight neighboring school districts had a significant increase from 2018 to 2019. In fall 2018, there was 22. In fall 2019, there was 106.

Superintendent Mike Keaffaber also welcomed Laura Langebartels to MSD as our director of communication and community engagement.

“Laura has communications experiences at Eagle Church in Indianapolis, In-

diana Wesleyan University and most recently at the La-Fontaine Learning Community,” stated Keaffaber.

The Education Fund balance for the end of October was over \$4.1 million.

The School Board approved the 2020 Census resolution. In part, the resolution states: “Be It Further Resolved, the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County is committed to working in partnership with other local civic, business, and community leaders and others to engage, educate, and count every resident within our local community in the 2020 Census.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

PAGE: The Indiana Senate is now accepting applications for the 2020 Senate Page Program, stated State Sen. Andy Zay, R-Huntington.

Zay: Applications available for Indiana Senate Page Program

Program will begin in January and run through early March

learning more about government and public policy,” Zay stated. “This program reveals how much of an impact the General Assembly has on our community, and I strongly encourage local students to participate.”

The Senate Page Program will begin in January and run through early March. Positions fill quickly, so it is important to apply early. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session. They begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Groups serve together on Wednesdays. Serving as a page is considered an excused absence from school.

For more information or to apply, visit www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/page-program.

National Spelling Bee will have fewer wild cards next year

BY BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

The Scripps National Spelling Bee will have fewer participants next year. Whether it will have fewer champions remains to be seen.

Six months after the bee ended in an unprecedented eight-way tie because organizers ran out of words that were difficult enough to trip up the best spellers, Scripps on Tuesday announced the first in a series of reforms to the competition. While bee organizers aren’t saying how they’ll come up with a more challenging word list, the bee is reducing the number of wild-card entrants, which ought to streamline an event that was becoming unwieldy.

The bee will have roughly 140 wild-card entrants, down from nearly 300 this year. That means the com-

petition would top out at about 400 spellers. This year, there were 562 kids in the bee, which is open to students through the eighth grade.

And unlike in previous years, wild cards will be available only to seventh- and eighth-graders. There were dozens of first-timers and younger spellers among this year’s wild cards, and current and former spellers said they were concerned the program had strayed from its intended purpose and was letting in nearly anyone able to pay the \$1,500 entry fee, plus travel, lodging and expenses. Spellers who qualify via the traditional route, by winning a regional bee, have their trip to nationals paid for by sponsors.

There were 17 wild cards age 9 or younger this year, and none survived to join

the 50 spellers who made the finals. The preliminary rounds featured wild-card spellers who were clearly overwhelmed by such words as “tendon,” “vestibule,” “allocation” and “gyro.”

Fourteen-year-old Simone Kaplan of Davie, Florida, who just missed being part of the octet of champions in this year’s bee, said she noticed the struggles of some younger wild-card spellers.

“The change gives the students in sixth grade and below who don’t win their district bees more chances to hone their skills for next year,” said the eighth-grader, who is hoping to return for her fourth bee. “I think that making the bee smaller is also going to make it more competitive, so yes, I think it is a good thing.”

Paige Kimble, the bee’s executive director, told The Associated Press ahead of

the announcement that older kids ought to be the focus of the wild-card program because they are running out of chances to make the bee. She said Scripps will take into account applicants’ performances in past bees and the difficulty of their regions.

Scripps also announced a financial aid package for spellers who apply through the wild-card program, known as “RSVBee.” The bee will cover the entry fees and expenses of up to 18 wild-card spellers who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches, a common measure of poverty.

“We have always been sensitive to the financial need aspect of RSVBee,” Kimble said. “We look forward to helping spellers and their families who are in need make it to the national stage.”

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The heart of Pensacola: City has strong ties with naval base

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — There’s a message board in Gary Yetter’s brewery, located near Naval Air Station Pensacola. The idea is, a customer buys a beer for a friend who isn’t there, puts their name on it and when the friend comes in, they have a free beer waiting for them.

Right now, there are several free beers waiting for unnamed NAS Pensacola flight school students, first responders and U.S. Marines. But

it’s not just a reaction to the Royal Saudi Air Force officer who fatally shot three sailors and wounded eight others on Friday. Yetter says people have always shown their appreciation for the sailors and Marines on the base.

“Someone will come in and say ‘I want to buy a beer for a flight school student,’” Yetter said.

It’s an example of the mutual love between the city and those on the base. While a lot of military bases provide an economic engine for the com-

munities that host them, the Navy has a special relationship with Pensacola that is built on centuries of history.

A large number of the city’s 52,000 residents, including Yetter, are people who first came to Pensacola because of the naval base.

Yetter, 63, spent 21 years in the Navy and used to call Washington state his home. The Navy brought him to Pensacola twice, and after retiring he made it his home for good. He worked part-time at the base as a civilian, and

eventually opened the brewery. He says 75 percent of his customers are active military, retired military or civilian employees from the base.

“It’s funny about Pensacola. Everybody says, ‘Are you from Pensacola?’ and most people say, ‘No, I’m from somewhere else.’ But we all move here eventually,” said Yetter.

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan first came to Pensacola as a member of the Air Force, and returned to the city when he retired.

He noted during a press briefing on the shooting that the community is particularly hurt because it opens its heart and homes to foreign nationals who train at the base.

“We opened our country to the allied officers, we opened our hearts. Many of the folks that surround our military base ... do sponsorships, where they sponsor officers into their homes to do a cultural exchange,” Morgan said. “You should have walked the crime scene with us, and you’d understand the anger in

this community right now.”

The military history of the area dates back to 1698, when Spain built a fort on the same site where NAS Pensacola is now – though not as sprawling as the nearly 6,000-acre base. French forces destroyed the Spanish fort in 1719. The Spanish later built Fort San Carlos de Barrancas in 1797 and some of the structure is still on the current base. President John Quincy Adams ordered the construction of a Navy yard on the site and construction began in 1826.

USMCA

Continued from A1

labor rights in Mexico, and regional content.

“Mission accomplished!” Ebrard told the gathered officials.

Lighthizer praised the joint work of the Trump administration, Democrats, business and labor leaders to reach an agreement, calling it “nothing short of a miracle that we have all come together.”

“This is a win-win-win agreement which will provide stability for working people in all three countries for years to come,” Freeland said. “That is no small thing.”

A U.S. House vote is likely before Congress adjourns for the year and the Senate is likely to vote in January or February. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the vote on the trade deal will likely occur after an expected impeachment trial in the Senate.

“This is a huge victory for our country’s workers, small businesses, manufacturers, and farmers. USMCA will drive economic growth and boost job creation by expanding markets for made-in-America products and Hoosier ag exports,” stated Second District Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, in a statement to the Plain Dealer on Tuesday. “I’m grateful to have had a seat at the table working with President Trump and Ambassador Lighthizer to move USMCA forward in a way that benefits Hoosiers. With this final agreement to modernize North American trade, the president is delivering on his promise to level the playing field for American workers and farmers and to keep our economic momentum going. Now it’s time for Congress to vote without further delay. I look forward to casting my vote for USMCA soon.”

Pelosi was the key congressional force behind the deal, which updates the 25-year-old NAFTA accord that many Democrats – especially from manufacturing areas hit hard by trade-related job losses – have long lambasted.

She and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., forged a positive working relationship with Lighthizer, whom they credited with working in good faith.

“Thanks to President Trump’s leadership, we have reached an historic agreement on the USMCA. After working with Republicans, Democrats, and many other stakeholders for the past two years

we have created a deal that will benefit American workers, farmers, and ranchers for years to come,” Lighthizer said. “This will be the model for American trade deals going forward.”

NAFTA eliminated most tariffs and other trade barriers involving the United States, Mexico and Canada. Critics, including Trump, labor unions and many Democratic lawmakers, branded the pact a job killer for the United States because it encouraged factories to move south of the border, capitalize on low-wage Mexican workers and ship products back to the U.S. duty-free.

Weeks of back-and-forth, closely monitored by Democratic labor allies such as the AFL-CIO, have brought the two sides together. Pelosi is a longtime free-trade advocate and supported the original NAFTA in 1994. Trump has accused Pelosi of being incapable of passing the agreement because she is too wrapped up in impeachment.

The original NAFTA badly divided Democrats but the new pact is more protectionist and labor-friendly, and Pelosi is confident it won’t divide the party, though some liberal activists took to social media to carp at the agreement.

“There is no denying that the trade rules in America will now be fairer because of our hard work and perseverance. Working people have created a new standard for future trade negotiations,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “President Trump may have opened this deal. But working people closed it.”

Business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce also chimed in to support the long-delayed agreement.

“We are optimistic this development will open the door to final approval of USMCA on a bipartisan basis by the end of the year, which will especially benefit American



PHOTO PROVIDED
DEAL: Second District Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Indiana, center, and other members of the House Republican USMCA Whip Team receive a briefing Tuesday from U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on the final agreement.

farmers, manufacturers, and small businesses,” Thomas Donohue, CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement.

“This agreement has been the result of painstaking bipartisan negotiations over the past year, and would not have been possible if not for the willingness of President Trump to work patiently with Democrats to get something done that he knew was in the best interests of American workers, farmers and manufacturers,” said Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a former U.S. trade representative.

Republicans leaders and lawmakers have agitated for months for the accord but Pelosi has painstakingly worked to bring labor on board.

“Mexico and Canada are our two biggest trading partners and there were inequities in things that were baked into the old NAFTA,” said Sen. Mike Braun, R-Indiana, during a conference call Tuesday attended by the Plain Dealer. “When the Democrats were wanting to make sure wages and labor practices (were addressed), I was not against that. I’ve always been a conservative that believes raising wages is one of the most important things we need to do. And however we can do it, it’s

good for everyone. I think all said and done it’s going to be a win-win.”

Democrats see the pact as significantly better than NAFTA and Trumka’s endorsement is likely to add to a strong vote by Democrats that have proven skeptical of trade agreements.

“I think the vote’s going to be pretty good,” said No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer, D-Md., a veteran party whip. “There’s a general agreement – not total agreement, it’s not unanimity – that USMCA is better. It’s an improvement. And to the extent that Trumka and labor comes out and says that this is an improvement, I think that that will be unifying.”

The pact contains provisions designed to nudge manufacturing back to the United States. For example, it requires that 40 percent to

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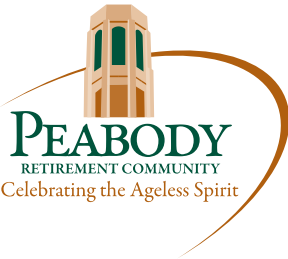
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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Norse TRC defense continues against Knights



Area Calendar

Boys basketball - Northfield vs. Canterbury, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball - Southwood vs. Mississinewa, 7:30 p.m.

Ohio State's Chase Young wins Nagurski Award

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Ohio State defensive end Chase Young won the Bronko Nagurski Award given to the nation's top college defensive player on Monday night.
Young was the nation's most dominant player on defense this season, recording 16 1/2 sacks and forcing six fumbles in 10 games for the Buckeyes. His best game came against then-No. 13 Wisconsin when he had four sacks and two forced fumbles in a 38-7 victory.
The 6-foot-6, 265-pound Young joins a list of former Nagurski Award winners that includes Aaron Donald, Warren Sapp, Luke Kuechly, Terrell Suggs and Champ Bailey
Young received the award Monday night at a banquet sponsored annually by the Charlotte Touchdown Club.

Thomas out 4 games for violating substance abuse policy

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Washington Redskins cornerback Simeon Thomas has been suspended four games for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.
The league announced Thomas' suspension Tuesday that extends through the end of this season and Week 1 of 2020. Thomas is suspended without pay during that time.
Thomas became a surprise contributor in the Redskins' secondary this season. He has played in 12 games and moved up the depth chart after the coaching staff decided to bench veteran cornerback Josh Norman.
The 26-year-old was a sixth-round pick of the Browns in 2018 out of Louisiana. It's unclear what the Redskins will do to fill his roster spot.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:
E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.
Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.
Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.
Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.



LAYUP: Northfield's Addi Baker lays the ball up during the second half of last week's game against Manchester.

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

Northfield and Southwood will reheat their rivalry in a girls' basketball showdown to highlight the week's action. Meanwhile, Three Rivers Conference (TRC) play begins in the boys' basketball front.

Girls' basketball
Southwood (2-6) vs. Northfield (5-3), Dec. 13, 7:45 p.m.

After a rough start to the season, Northfield has turned its season around in recent contests with a three-game win streak and four wins in their last five. The duo of Addi Baker and Emma Hoover are averaging 11.0 and 10.9 points per game, respectively, this season to guide the Norse. Hoover leads the team in three-point shooting with 13 made long-range attempts on the year, accounting for all but six of the Norse's threes on the season. In fact, Hoover's 40 three-pointers attempted comprise a large majority of Northfield's attempts (66) on the year.
Northfield's recent win streak has been particularly timely with three games being TRC duels. The Norse had a brief reprieve from conference play on Tuesday against Taylor - results were unavailable as of Plain Dealer deadline - before back-to-back conference and Wabash County clashes against Southwood and Wabash to close out the first half of the regular season.
Southwood, meanwhile, has dropped six of its last seven contests with the lone win coming at home to Madison-Grant. Offense has been hard to come by for the Knights on the year as Southwood averages just 31.4 points per game and have failed to score 25 points in four of their eight games. The Knights have a contest on Wednesday against Mississinewa before meeting the Norse on Friday. The Indians are led by standout Caily Bolser and are 6-3 on the season.
MaKenna Pace leads the Knights in scoring with 7.9 points per game while also hitting 15 of her 46 three-point attempts on the year. Erin Lehner adds 6.4 points per game as the two combine for nearly half of Southwood's offense per game. Northfield holds a 14-game win streak over Southwood dating back to Dec. 7 of 2012.

Wabash (4-4) vs. Rochester, Dec. 14, 7:45 p.m.

Like Northfield, Wabash has overcome a slow start to the season in recent weeks. The
See NORSE / Page B2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Young, McFadden, White head to Hall of Fame without Heismans

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer
NEW YORK — Vince Young put up dizzying dual-threat numbers at Texas before it was common in college football.
Arkansas' Darren McFadden was one of the first great running backs to get swept aside as college football became dominated by the wave of dual-threat quarterbacks who followed Young.
Lorenzo White was a standout at Michigan State

in the days when running backs were college football's biggest stars, but his best season came as a sophomore back when Heisman Trophy winners were always upperclassmen.
Young, McFadden and White were among 13 players and two coaches being inducted into College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday night at the National Football Foundation's awards dinner in New York. There are no Heisman

winners in the class and the campaigns of Young, McFadden and White might have done better at different times.
Young wasn't the first star quarterback who could tear apart a defense with his legs and his arm, but he set new standards at Texas. In 2005, with the college football world transfixed on USC taking a run at three straight national titles with running back Reggie Bush and quarterback Matt Leinart, Young

was being promoted by Texas as both Trojans stars rolled into one.
Young passed for 3,036 yards and 26 touchdowns that season and ran for 1,050 and 12 scores, topped off by 450 total yards and three scores in a memorable Rose Bowl performance that took down USC and made the Longhorns national champions. Young was the first player in NCAA history to
See HEISMAN / Page B2

NFL

Patriots caught videotaping in Spygate sequel

BY JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots acknowledged on Monday night that a video crew working for the team filmed the Cincinnati Bengals sideline during Sunday's game, a violation of league rules that echoed the team's 2007 Spygate scandal.
In a statement posted on Twitter and the team website, the Patriots said that a three-person crew for a web series titled "Do Your Job" "inappropriately filmed the field from the press box" as part of a feature on the scouting department. The filming took place "without specific knowledge of league rules," the statement said.

The team also said that while it was granted credentials for the crew from the Browns, the home team, "our failure to inform the Bengals and the League was an unintended oversight." When confronted, the team said the crew "immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully."
"The sole purpose of the filming was to provide an illustration of an advance scout at work on the road. There was no intention of using the footage for any other purpose," the statement said. "We accept full responsibility for the actions of our production crew at the Browns-Bengals game."
The Patriots were fined

\$250,000 and docked a first-round draft pick in 2007 for violating NFL rules against using video to steal signals. Coach Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000.
The scandal, dubbed Spygate, helped fuel a widespread distrust of the team that reverberated a decade later when the team was accused of illegally deflating the footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game. Quarterback Tom Brady was suspended four games, and the team was fined \$1 million and docked another first-round draft pick.
The latest allegations came to light when Bengals coach Zac Taylor, whose team plays New England on Sunday, confirmed that the

league was investigating the crew's activities. An NFL spokesman did not immediately respond to a request from The Associated Press seeking comment.
Asked about the reports during his radio show on Monday, Belichick told WEEI radio that the video crew was completely separate from the football staff.
"We have absolutely nothing to do with anything that they produce or direct or shoot," said Belichick, who did appear on camera in an earlier episode of the series, on the equipment manager. "I have never seen any of their tapes or anything else. This is something that we 100 percent have zero involvement with."

MLB

Strasburg, Nationals reach record \$245M, 7-year deal

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer
SAN DIEGO — Stephen Strasburg returned to the Washington Nationals with a record contract on the first day of the winter meetings, a deal that puts fellow free agent pitcher Gerrit Cole in position for an even larger payday.
Washington and the World Series MVP agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contract, a deal of surprising size and length for a 31-year-old right-hander with an injury filled resume.
Strasburg received the highest deal for a pitcher in both total dollars and average annual value at \$35 million. The largest contract for a pitcher had been David Price's \$217 million, seven-year deal with Boston that began in 2016. The highest average value had been Zack Greinke's \$34.4 million as part of a \$206.5 million, six-year agreement with Arizona prior to the 2016 season.
See DEAL / Page B2

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The Associated Press Top 10 Indiana high school boys basketball teams, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, rating points and previous rankings:

Class 4A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Lawrence Central (14)	2-0	280	2	1
2. Bloomington South	3-0	253	3	2
3. Lawrence North (1)	2-0	248	3	3
4. Brownsburg	4-0	169	6	4
5. Lafayette Jeff	4-0	157	8	7
6. Warren Central	2-0	131	7	8
7. Culver Academy	4-0	94	10	9
8. Jeffersonville	1-1	85	4	NR
9. Floyd Central	4-0	70	NR	10
10. Indpls Cathedral	2-0	54	NR	
Others receiving votes:				
Fishers 48. Carmel 43. Ev. Reitz 33. Homestead 25. Indianapolis Attucks 18. S. Bend Adams 18. Indpls Ben Davis 15. Northridge 14. Columbus North 14. Westfield 9. Zionsville 9. Ft. Wayne Snider 7. New Albany 6.				

Class 3A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Silver Creek (15)	3-0	300	3	
2. Heritage Hills	1-0	234	3	
3. Greensburg	1-0	185	5	
4. Ev. Bosse	1-0	165	6	
5. Princeton	3-0	151	4	
6. Danville	4-0	121	9	
(tie) Indpls Brebeuf	2-1	121	2	
8. S. Bend St. Joseph's	2-0	110	NR	
9. Northwestern	4-0	53	NR	
10. Delta	2-1	51	NR	
Others receiving votes:				
Griffith 48. Connerville 46. N. Harrison 45. Beech Grove 42. Mishawaka Marian 22. Sullivan 22. Norwell 15. Greencastle 15. Hammond 14. Evansville Memorial 13. Jintown 9. Hamilton Hts. 6. Ft. Wayne Luers 6. Bellmont 6.				

Class 2A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Linton-Stockton (8)	3-0	280	1	
2. Shenandoah (2)	3-0	266	2	
3. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (5)	2-0	260	4	
4. Blackford	3-0	109	10	
5. Southwestern (Jefferson)	4-1	108	8	
6. Prairie Hts.	4-0	97	9	
7. Tipton	3-0	91	NR	
8. Indpls Park Tudor	2-1	69	5	
9. Westview	1-1	68	3	
10. Andean	1-2	66	6	
Others receiving votes:				
Lapel 59. Ev. Mater Dei 58. LaVille 50. Paoli 40. Indpls Howe 36. University 24. Indpls Covenant Christian 23. S. Decatur 21. Churrubusco 17. Frankton 15. N. Posey 14. Northeastern 13. Central Noble 8. Southridge 8.				

Class 1A				
	W-L	Pts	Prv	
1. Gary 21st Century (11)	5-0	292	1	
2. Barr-Reeve (4)	2-0	264	2	
3. Bloomfield	2-0	199	3	
4. Greenwood Christian	2-0	198	6	
(tie) Kouts	4-0	198	5	
6. Logosotee	4-0	146	8	
7. Lafayette Catholic	2-2	97	4	
8. Covington	2-1	77	NR	
9. Oldenburg	2-1	72	NR	
10. Ev. Day	3-1	59	10	
Others receiving votes:				
Morristown 42. Indpls Metro 42. Argos 31.				
Christian Academy 30. Providence Cristo Rey 24.				
Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 14. Dubois 9.				
W. Washington 6.				

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East				
New England	10	3	0	.769 338 168
Buffalo	9	4	0	.692 274 212
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385 226 301
Miami	3	10	0	.231 221 399
South				
Houston	8	5	0	.615 317 309
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615 318 295
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462 296 295
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308 230 337

North				
x-Baltimore	11	2	0	.846 430 236
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615 259 242
Cleveland	6	7	0	.462 273 291
Cincinnati	1	12	0	.077 198 325
West				
y-Kansas City	9	4	0	.692 371 281
Oakland	6	7	0	.462 258 366
Denver	5	8	0	.385 236 261
L.A. Chargers	5	8	0	.385 289 251

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
East				
Dallas	6	7	0	.462 334 267
Philadelphia	6	7	0	.462 297 301
Washington	3	10	0	.231 188 310
N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154 247 362
South				
y-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769 344 296
Tampa Bay	6	7	0	.462 378 381
Carolina	5	8	0	.385 300 360
Atlanta	4	9	0	.308 300 343
North				
Green Bay	10	3	0	.769 309 270
Minnesota	9	4	0	.692 339 249
Chicago	7	6	0	.538 247 232
Detroit	3	9	1	.269 287 335
West				
San Francisco	11	2	0	.846 397 229
Seattle	10	3	0	.769 341 321
L.A. Rams	8	5	0	.615 311 262
Arizona	3	9	1	.269 272 374

x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				
Thursday, Dec. 5				
Chicago 31, Dallas 24				
Sunday's Games				
Green Bay 20, Washington 15				
Minnesota 20, Detroit 7				
Atlanta 40, Carolina 20				
San Francisco 48, New Orleans 46				
Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 19				
Tampa Bay 38, Indianapolis 35				
Denver 38, Houston 24				
N.Y. Jets 22, Miami 21				
Baltimore 24, Buffalo 17				
L.A. Chargers 45, Jacksonville 10				
Tennessee 42, Oakland 21				
Kansas City 23, New England 16				
Pittsburgh 23, Arizona 17				
L.A. Rams 28, Seattle 12				

Monday's Game				
Philadelphia 23, N.Y. Giants 17, OT				
Thursday's Game				
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.				
Sunday, Dec. 15				
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.				
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.				
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.				
Miami at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.				
Seattle at Carolina, 1 p.m.				
Chicago at Green Bay, 1 p.m.				
New England at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.				
Philadelphia at Washington, 1 p.m.				
Cleveland at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.				
Jacksonville at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.				
Minnesota at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.				
Atlanta at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.				
L.A. Rams at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.				
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.				

Monday, Dec. 15				
Indianapolis at New Orleans, 8:15 p.m.				

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Standings through Monday games						
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE						
	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Louisville	2	0	1.000	9	0	1.000
Virginia	2	0	1.000	8	1	.889
Boston College	2	0	1.000	5	5	.500
Duke	1	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Florida St.	1	1	.500	8	2	.800
NC State	1	1	.500	7	2	.778
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	7	3	.700
Virginia Tech	1	1	.500	6	3	.667
North Carolina	1	1	.500	6	3	.667
Georgia Tech	1	1	.500	4	3	.571
Syracuse	1	1	.500	5	4	.556
Miami	0	1	.000	5	3	.625
Notre Dame	0	2	.000	6	3	.667
Clemson	0	2	.000	5	4	.556
Wake Forest	0	2	.000	5	5	.500

BIG EAST CONFERENCE						
	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Butler	0	0	.000	9	0	1.000
DePaul	0	0	.000	9	1	.900
Xavier	0	0	.000	9	1	.900
St. John's	0	0	.000	8	2	.800
Creighton	0	0	.000	7	2	.778
Marquette	0	0	.000	7	2	.778
Villanova	0	0	.000	7	2	.778
Georgetown	0	0	.000	6	3	.667
Seton Hall	0	0	.000	6	3	.667
Providence	0	0	.000	5	5	.500

BIG TEN CONFERENCE						
	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Maryland	1	0	1.000	10	0	1.000
Ohio St.	1	0	1.000	9	0	1.000
Michigan	1	0	1.000	8	1	.889
Purdue	1	0	1.000	6	3	.667
Michigan St.	1	0	1.000	6	3	.667
Wisconsin	1	0	1.000	5	4	.556

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

7 p.m.	ESPN: LA Clippers at Toronto
7 p.m.	BTN: Wisconsin at Rutgers
8 p.m.	Milwaukee
PAC-12N: Omaha at Arizona	NHL HOCKEY
8:30 p.m.	7 p.m.
ACCN: Chattanooga at Virginia Tech	NBCSN: Boston at Washington
9 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
BTN: Michigan at Illinois	NBCSN: Philadelphia at Colorado
10 p.m.	RODEO
PAC-12N: Prairie View A&M at Arizona State	10 p.m.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)	CBSN: PRCA: National Finals, Las Vegas
6:30 p.m.	SOCCER (MEN'S)
ACCN: DePaul at Notre Dame	12:20 p.m.
SECN: Tulsa at Arkansas	FS2: FIFA Club World Cup: Hienghène Sport at Al-Sadd Sports Club, First Round
8 p.m.	12:55 p.m.
FS1: Iowa at Iowa State	TNT: UEFA Champions League: Manchester City at Dinamo Zagreb, Group C
GOLF	3 p.m.
5:30 p.m.	TNT: UEFA Champions League: Juventus at Bayer Leverkusen, Group D
GOLF: Presidents Cup: U.S. vs. International Team, Day 1, Melbourne, Australia	
NBA BASKETBALL	

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
(WOMEN'S)
6:30 p.m.
ACCN: DePaul at
 Notre Dame
7 p.m.
SECN: Tulsa at Arkansas
8 p.m.
FS1: Iowa at Iowa State
GOLF
5:30 p.m.
GOLF: Presidents Cup:
 U.S. vs. International Team,
 Day 1, Melbourne, Australia
NBA BASKETBALL

wa	1	1	.500	7	3	.700
braska	0	0	.000	4	5	.444
diana	0	1	.000	8	1	.889
nn St.	0	1	.000	7	2	.778
nois	0	1	.000	6	3	.667
tgers	0	1	.000	6	3	.667
orthwestern	0	1	.000	4	4	.500
ncisco	0	1	.000	4	5	.444

HORIZON LEAGUE						
	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Kentucky	0	0	.000	7	3	.700
Right St.	0	0	.000	7	3	.700
Iowa kee	0	0	.000	5	4	.556
Arkland	0	0	.000	5	5	.500
Ungstown St.	0	0	.000	5	5	.500
C	0	0	.000	4	6	.400
leveland St.	0	0	.000	4	6	.400
een Bay	0	0	.000	3	6	.333
PUI	0	0	.000	2	8	.200
ajit	0	0	.000	2	8	.200

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST						
Conference	All Games					
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
nt St.	0	0	.000	8	1	.889
wling Green	0	0	.000	7	2	.778
ron	0	0	.000	7	2	.778
io	0	0	.000	7	3	.700
ffalo	0	0	.000	6	3	.667

GOLF

Reed still the talk of the Presidents Cup

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — As if being the first playing captain in 25 years at the Presidents Cup weren't enough, Tiger Woods filled yet another role Tuesday at Royal Melbourne.

This wasn't necessarily by design.

Woods had Patrick Reed in his group for the first full practice round for a U.S. team still trying to shake off the jet lag from a 23-hour flight from the Bahamas.

"It's always great playing with Tiger because he kind of frees you up," Reed said. "Everyone's focused on what Tiger's doing."

Woods got plenty of love from the fans, many fearing they might never get a chance to see him Down Under after his career was in jeopardy from four back surgeries. Woods won the Australian Masters at nearby Kingston Heath in 2009 and made the clinching putt in

2011 the last time the Presidents Cup was at Royal Melbourne.

Not that Reed was ignored.

He was the biggest topic on the first day of interviews because of his rules violation last week at the Hero World Challenge when he twice scooped away sand behind his ball while playing from a waste area. Reed was penalized two shots after seeing the video. He says it wasn't intentional and he wasn't helped; he didn't feel or see his club scrape back the sand; and the camera angle didn't show his club far enough behind the ball.

Fans didn't wait until the start of the matches Thursday to needle him.

Reed played in a foursome with Woods, Justin Thomas and Patrick Cantlay. As he prepared to tee off, a fan in the bleachers said, "Now on the tee, The Excavator."

Reed turned toward the fan and tipped his cap, then drilled his iron down the

fairway.

Eleven of the 15 players and captains who were available for interviews Tuesday were asked about Reed. That included Reed, and one of the questions directed to him was, "You didn't cheat?"

"No, of course not," Reed replied.

He stood patiently before the largest group of media, answering every question about what happened, whether it bothers him to hear the word "cheat" bandied about or if he even cares what people think of him.

Reed just wants to get on with the Presidents Cup, and his teammates felt the same way.

"That's something that's great about Patrick is he's been a great team player and he's always wanted to win points for the team," Justin Thomas said. "So I think the only way it could become a distraction is what the headlines are and how much we read into it. We're not here to

read articles and get into this or that. We are here to try to win points for the U.S. team in the Presidents Cup. ... It's in the past. And I understand it's going to be something that continues to get brought up, but none of us worry about it."

That didn't stop Thomas.

He was in the bunker on one hole, stood up to the shot and purposely took two practice swings that swiped away sand, then stood there laughing before dropping the ball elsewhere.

"It's all in good fun," Thomas said. "We needle each other all the time but it's never anything personal."

Still to be determined is whether it becomes personal to anyone else, inside or outside the ropes.

Marc Leishman was outspoken last week after seeing the Reed violation on television from the Australian Open. Asked about it again Tuesday, he said, "I only saw what everyone else

saw. I guess we've all made up our own minds about it."

"I think we're just going to let that one go and try and beat him on the course," Leishman said. "I think we've said enough, or I've said enough about it. I don't need to add any fuel to the fire. ... We know we have to play well to beat the Americans, and that's what we're preparing for."

This is a big year for the International team, led by Ernie Els. It has only one victory in the 25 years since the Presidents Cup was created to give players from outside Europe matches styled after the Ryder Cup. That was in 1998 at Royal Melbourne, the only other time the matches were held in December.

The underdog label, even for a home game, has never fit so well. The International team has seven rookies, with Adam Scott the highest-ranked player at No. 18. The average world ranking of the

American team is 12.3.

"This week, this is probably the best chance we will have with this golf course, this crowd, and I think the way our guys are playing," Louis Oosthuizen said. "It's no fun going out and everyone is saying, 'They're just going to run over them again.'"

Woods is required to play at least once before the 12 singles matches Sunday. He paired himself with Thomas for the opening round of the Bahamas, and it appears likely they will be partners, particularly with Cantlay and Reed having played together in the team event in New Orleans the last few years.

Or maybe he will play again with Reed, after having gone 0-2 at the Ryder Cup last year.

Either way, Woods is sure to draw a crowd.

"It doesn't matter where you go in the world, I think people are going to root for him," Thomas said.

NBA

Barrett was warned about life in the NBA and Knicks deliver

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — RJ Barrett was asked to explain something that would have been unusual to a 10-year veteran, let alone someone who had played 21 NBA games.

Was it strange to have a coach run practice, only to fire him after it ended?

"I mean, I have no idea. I just got here," Barrett said. "I don't know how these things work."

Welcome to life with the New York Knicks, rookie.

It's nothing new when they change coaches, but the firing of David Fizdale was a head-scratcher even for the Knicks. When they finally got around to announcing his dismissal last Friday, hours after the practice he led, the Knicks did it with a two-sentence statement void of any quotes or any other explanation. They played at home the next night and then departed the following day for a road trip, all without president Steve Mills or general manager Scott Perry commenting on Fizdale's removal. That left it up to the players to do all the talking.

The front office did speak earlier in the season, a strange press conference immediately after a Nov. 10 home loss to Cleveland in which they expressed their disappointment with the team's start. That put even more pressure on Fizdale beyond what he already faced trying to improve the NBA's worst team in its most unforgiving media market.

The front office had given Fizdale a new roster and not much time to mold it, which numerous coaches around the league thought was unfair.

"As coaches, sometimes you get caught in a storm," Indiana's Nate McMillan said.

The skies are always stormy over the Knicks, which can be a difficult adjustment for anyone once they arrive and see it up close. Barrett just spent one season around the picture of college basketball stability at Duke, where Mike Krzyzewski has led one of the nation's most prestigious programs for 40 seasons.

But the No. 3 pick in the draft knew to expect turbulence in the pros — even if it arrived earlier than maybe he

could have anticipated.

"I don't want to say surprised, just because I had a lot of good people in my ear telling me about different things in the league," Barrett said. "So not a surprise, but more so just try to be prepared for whatever comes my way."

With the Knicks, it will keep on coming.

THE 1,500 CLUB

Vince Carter is set to reach another milestone by playing in his 1,500th game.

The 42-year-old swingman will become the fifth player to reach the mark, with his next game scheduled for Tuesday when the Atlanta Hawks visit Miami.

Robert Parish is the career leader with 1,611 games played, followed by fellow center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar at 1,560. Dirk Nowitzki retired this year after playing in 1,522 games and Carter will soon pass John Stockton, who finished at 1,504.

Carter is coming off his highest-scoring game of the season, finishing with 17 points off the bench Sunday against Charlotte. He is averaging 5.6 points for the season.

He is the first player in NBA history to play 22 seasons and in January — a few weeks before he turns 43 — Carter will become the first player to play in four decades.

ROLLING ON THE ROAD

The Los Angeles Lakers are about to put the NBA's best road record to the test.

They begin a five-game trip Wednesday in Orlando and two days later visit the Miami Heat, where LeBron James' old team is 10-0 at home.

Games in Atlanta and Indiana follow before it wraps up Dec. 19 with the highlight of the trip — and likely of the NBA season to this point. The Lakers visit Milwaukee for a nationally televised matchup between teams who share the league's best record at 21-3.

The Lakers have won 11 in a row on the road, their longest streak since the 1972-73 season. They haven't lost outside their own arena, with their opening defeat at Staples Center being

designated a home game for the Clippers.

OTHER GAMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Denver at Philadelphia, Tuesday: The 76ers put their 12-0 record at home up against one of the best from the West.

New York at Golden State, Wednesday: The two teams at the bottom of the NBA standings. It only seems strange seeing one of them there.

Utah at Minnesota, Wednesday: The teams split a home-and-home series last month, with each winning on the road.

Portland at Denver, Thursday: Trail Blazers won a Game 7 on Denver's home floor in last season's Western Conference semifinals.

Dallas vs. Detroit, Thursday: First of two games in Mexico City on the week. Phoenix plays San Antonio on Saturday.

HAPPY HOMECOMING?

Pelicans fans let Anthony Davis have it in New Orleans. Kristaps Porzingis was treated as a traitor in New York.

Celtics fans jeered Kyrie Irving — and he didn't even play.

Home crowds love to boo players who they loved but then left, and it's happened in a few comeback games already this season. But things figure to sound different north of the border on Wednesday.

That's when Kawhi Leonard makes his lone trip to Toronto this season. He stuck around only one season after being acquired by the Raptors, but it was the most memorable one in franchise history. Leonard led the Raptors to their first NBA title, winning NBA Finals MVP honors, but the California native wanted to return home and signed with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Teammate Paul George wanted to get back to his home area, too, and Indiana Pacers fans still haven't forgiven him. George was booed throughout the Clippers' 110-99 victory in Indianapolis on Monday.

So how does George think things will sound Wednesday in Toronto?

"The exact opposite of what it was like tonight," he said.

NFL

Super Bowl 44: Saints shed history in upset of Colts

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As part of its celebration of its 100th season, the NFL is designating a Game of the Week, each chosen to highlight a classic matchup. For this week, it is the Colts-Saints game.

To mark each Game of the Week, the AP will be reprinting its story of a classic matchup in the rivalry. The following is the story from Super Bowl 44 on Feb 7, 2010.

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

MIAMI — The ultimate underdogs, they ain't. Not anymore. The Saints are Super Bowl champions now. Who Dat? Try Drew Brees, Sean Payton and a team that has reversed its embarrassing past, carrying an entire city to the top with it. Put away those paper bags forever.

Brees and the Saints rallied to upset Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 Sunday night in one of pro football's most thrilling title games.

"We just believed in ourselves and we knew that we had an entire city and maybe an entire country behind us," said Brees, the game's MVP. "What can I say? I tried to imagine what this moment would be like for a long time, and it's better than expected."

But not something many expected from these descendants of the hapless Aints, who were 5-point underdogs.

"Four years ago who ever thought this would be happening when 85 percent of the city was under water from (Hurricane) Katrina?" Brees said. "Most people not knowing if New Orleans would ever come back or if the organization and the team would come back. ... This is the culmination of that belief and that faith."

Brees tied a Super Bowl record with 32 completions, the last a 2-yard slant to Jeremy Shockey for the winning points with 5:42 remaining. He was 32 for 39 for 288 yards.

A surprise onside kick sparked the Saints' second-half comeback. Their 25th-ranked defense made several key stops, and Tracy Porter's 74-yard interception return on a pass from Manning clinched it.

Manning tried to give chase, but was blocked by a New Orleans defender and fell awkwardly as the cornerback raced by. The four-time NFL MVP forlornly walked to the sideline as the Big Easy celebrations began.

"It's time for the Saints to celebrate," he said. "It's their field and it's their championship."

An NFL also-ran for much of their 43 years, the Saints' football renaissance, led by Brees and Payton, climaxed

with Shockey's touchdown and Lance Moore's 2-point conversion catch, originally ruled incomplete but overturned on Payton's challenge.

Porter's pick, just as dramatic as his interception of Brett Favre's pass to force overtime in the NFC title game, was the game's only turnover. It's one Manning will forever regret.

The Saints (16-3) won three postseason games this winter after winning only two in the previous 42 years. They beat Arizona, Minnesota and Indianapolis (16-3) — all division winners — for their first title, scoring 107 points and allowing only 59.

"We weren't the Aints," Porter said. "We were a team of destiny, a team that can make big plays."

The championship came 4½ years after Katrina ravaged New Orleans, making the Saints nomads for the 2005 season. There even was some doubt they would return, but the NFL refused to abandon the city. The Superdome was repaired and the Saints won the NFC South in '06, their first season with Brees and Payton.

That was the season Manning won his only Super Bowl. He got the Colts off a quick start and had them in front for much of this one, but New Orleans' league-leading offense, which scored 510 points this season, outscored Indy 31-7 after falling behind 10-0. That matched the biggest comeback in a Super Bowl.

Payton held the Vince Lombardi Trophy high over his head and ran into the end zone toward several hundred fans chanting the Saints' rally cry: "Who dat, who dat, who dat say gonna beat dem Saints?"

Nobody can say it now.

"Everybody back in New Orleans gets a piece of this trophy," he said.

"I think I could kiss him," owner Tom Benson said.

Before many of the 74,059 fans got settled following the Who's halftime show, the Saints worked a little football voodoo. Garrett Hartley's onside kick was touched by the Colts' Hank Baskett, then recovered by Chris Reis at the New Orleans 42.

"I just told our guys you've got to make me look good on this," Payton said. "That really becomes like a turnover."

But the points came quickly after halftime — mostly for the Saints.

"Look around the stadium," linebacker Scott Fujita said. "It was like 6- or 7-to-1 (Saints fans). The black and gold just poured into Miami."

"The whole world was behind us. This was bigger than just a game for the Saints. We are the world's team."

OLYMPICS

Russia doping saga likely heads back to Switzerland's courts

GENEVA (AP) — Sports punishments imposed on Russia this week closed one big body of work for the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Now, the sports lawyers can enter the field — yet again, in a doping scandal that has raged since 2014. A Russian legal challenge seems certain after Russia's anti-doping agency was suspended by the global watchdog Monday using powers gained only last year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin already said "we have the grounds to appeal," and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev urged national sports authorities to take up the fight.

A four-year ban on Russia's identity at Olympic Games and world championships is the main sanction for state tampering with data from the Moscow testing laboratory.

Athletes implicated in doping or whose data was manipulated will be barred from those major events. Russia also cannot bid for or be awarded rights to host those events, WADA's executive committee agreed.

A hearing before the Court of Arbitration for Sport is expected early next year in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The next step is by RUSADA, the Russian anti-doping agency ruled "non-compliant" by WADA. Its supervisory board meets Dec. 19.

That's within a 21-day deadline to accept or dispute WADA's decision. Everything points toward a dispute for WADA to notify at the highest court in sports.

Each side gets to choose one judge from the CAS list of sports lawyers worldwide. The most in-demand judg-

es typically have worked with each other in several previous cases.

Those judges selected have three days to pick a third judge to lead their panel. If they can't agree, the pick falls to the CAS Ordinary Arbitration Division president — Carole Malinvaud, a Harvard Law School graduate who played junior golf for France.

WADA's compliance rule book says the panel should then give a detailed verdict within three months. That should be in March or April, said WADA's compliance panel chairman, Jonathan Taylor.

The Tokyo Olympics open July 24.

WADA rules also give CAS judges power to decide which of Monday's sanctions to enforce. Any verdict that goes against Russia starts the four-year sanctions clock.

Childhood abuse led woman to long life of promiscuity

DEAR ABBY: I was molested by my sister’s husband in 1959. I was 5 years old. Growing up in the late ’50s and ’60s, sexual abuse was never discussed in my parents’ home. It just wasn’t done then. Of course, my brother-in-law told me it was “our little secret.”

Dear Abby



This has affected my entire life. I didn’t get counseling for it because I didn’t remember it. I became promiscuous at a young age, but I cannot remember any of the sexual episodes. I have been with several thousand men and don’t remember any of them.

I came up with a theory that each time, I went into a “fugue state.” I understand it’s common in children who are molested young. I am horribly ashamed of my behavior, and I beg God nightly for forgiveness.

I’m married with a 29-year-old son, and my husband and son know all about my activities during our entire marriage. I have been chaste now for more than a year and doing my best to not “fall off the wagon.”

My sister and her husband are now elderly, but I still want to tell her that he abused me. He also abused his adopted daughter, who ran away when she was 14. Should I tell my sister about what he did to me, or must I take it to my grave? (We are already estranged.) – Surviving In Texas

DEAR SURVIVING: I am truly sorry for what you experienced and how it has affected your life, and I congratulate you for your year of sobriety. That said, I think you would benefit from talking to a mental health professional about this before deciding whether to tell your sister. I say this for your sake, not hers.

If she remained with her husband after he assaulted her young teenaged daughter (!), it won’t come as a total shock to her. However, she may be so calloused or deeply in denial that she won’t react or apologize, so do not expect it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband wants us to go to nudist resorts. We are both in our 70s and very out of shape. He is extremely overweight and old looking. Everything hangs. He has been rude and nasty to me because I always say no. I’m too old to leave him. We can’t keep fighting over this. He is also very unhealthy. Help! Please give me some advice. – Clothing Not Optional

DEAR C.N.O.: I’ll try. Nudist or clothing-optional resorts are not what you may think they are. They are patronized by families and individuals of every shape, size and age.

In the interest of peace in your household, please do some research. Your husband is unwell, and you belong with him. You will not be the exception, you will be the norm and you will not be judged. Try it once and you will see that when the clothes come off, we are all variations on one grand design – even if some of the moving parts sag a little.

DEAR ABBY: My husband left me stranded at the train station with no way to get home as a punishment for my daughter’s behavior. He said it was because I never take him seriously, and I should live with the consequences. I feel he crossed a very big boundary with this, and I’m considering leaving him. Am I wrong? – Stranded In California

DEAR STRANDED: I don’t think so. But before visiting a divorce lawyer, it might be better to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist to see if you and your husband can find a more effective way to communicate.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Closed tight
- 7 Thrifty
- 13 Fleet of warships
- 14 Forsaken, maybe
- 15 Restaurant freebie
- 16 Daddy’s sister
- 17 Common abbr.
- 18 Observe
- 19 Tiny amounts
- 22 Lodge member
- 24 Sales agents
- 28 Bullring shout
- 29 Pate de foie —
- 30 Tender meat
- 31 Witty remark
- 32 Cobra cousin
- 33 Mr. Haggard of country music
- 34 Gambling stakes

36 Sweater letter

- 38 French ait
- 39 Brit’s exclamation (2 wds.)
- 40 Bargain
- 41 Ms. Ullmann
- 42 Plane tip
- 43 Egos’ counter-parts
- 44 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. —
- 45 Implore
- 47 Eastern philosophy
- 49 Esprit de corps
- 52 Bug
- 56 Beach find
- 57 Salad follower
- 58 Wineglass
- 59 Laughed heartily

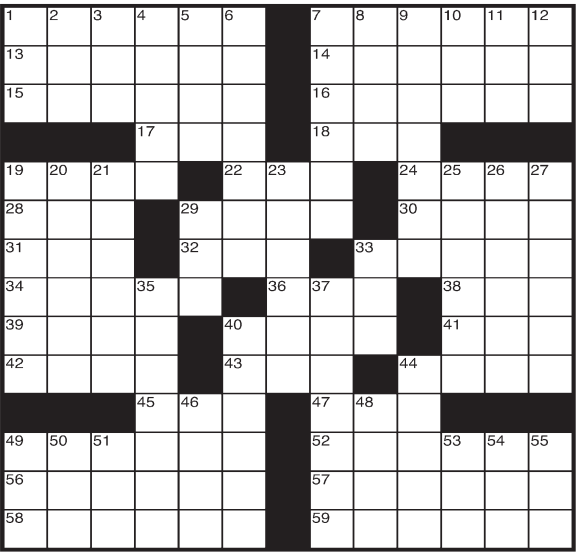
DOWN

- 1 — Juan
- 2 Hurler’s stat
- 3 Rock band need
- 4 Big ponds
- 5 Go over proofs

Answer to Previous Puzzle



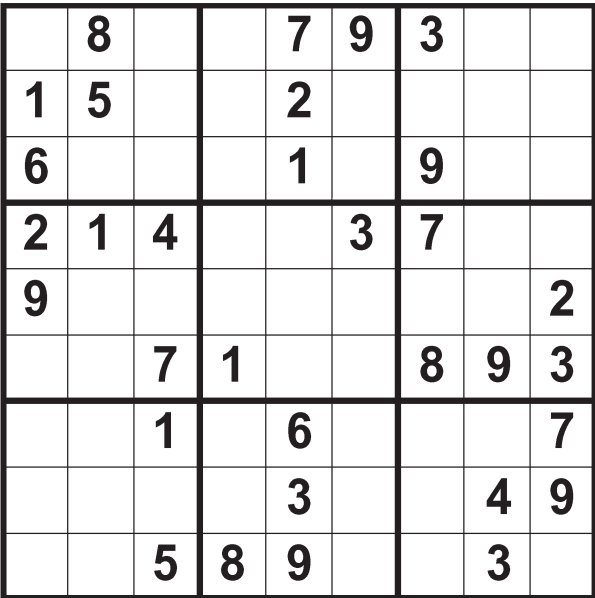
- 6 Ballerinas
- 7 Lab glassware
- 8 Cad
- 9 Daunt
- 10 Fetch
- 11 Boxing great
- 12 Caustic solution
- 19 Realm
- 20 Maria Conchita —
- 21 Fighting fish
- 23 Licked
- 25 Spookily
- 26 White-faced
- 27 Garment part
- 29 Vapor
- 33 \$1,000,000, slangily
- 35 Stare at
- 37 More rash
- 40 Absorb
- 44 Shade-loving plant
- 46 Vogue rival
- 48 Cato’s year
- 49 Food additive
- 50 Taunting cry
- 51 Yank’s foe
- 53 Miscalculate
- 54 Third letter
- 55 Turner or Koppel



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3	7	8	5	6	9	2	1	4
2	9	1	8	3	4	5	7	6
4	6	5	2	7	1	3	8	9
8	5	3	7	2	6	4	9	1
7	4	9	1	8	3	6	5	2
1	2	6	9	4	5	7	3	8
6	3	7	4	1	8	9	2	5
5	8	4	3	9	2	1	6	7
9	1	2	6	5	7	8	4	3

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LSSOH

DICEH

RALLUP

CASCUT

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Yesterday’s Jumbles: TURBO WAGER PUDDLE ORNERY Answer: The bottom of the valley was a little further — DOWN THE ROAD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

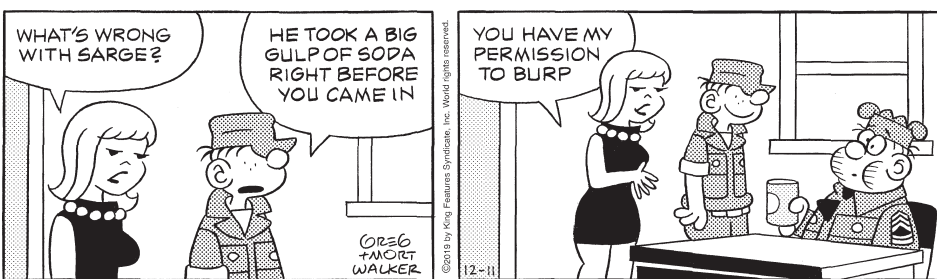
(Answers tomorrow)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



“Deck the malls with bras of holly...”

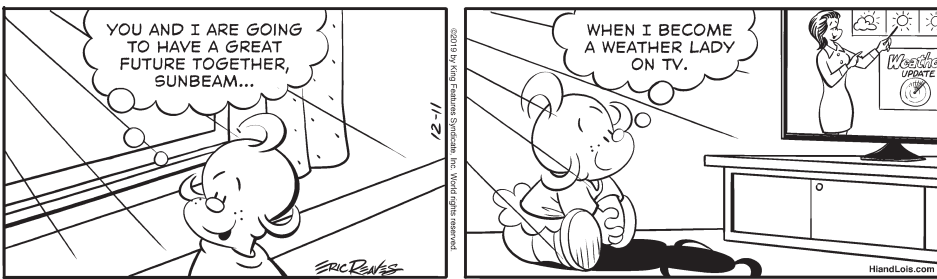
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



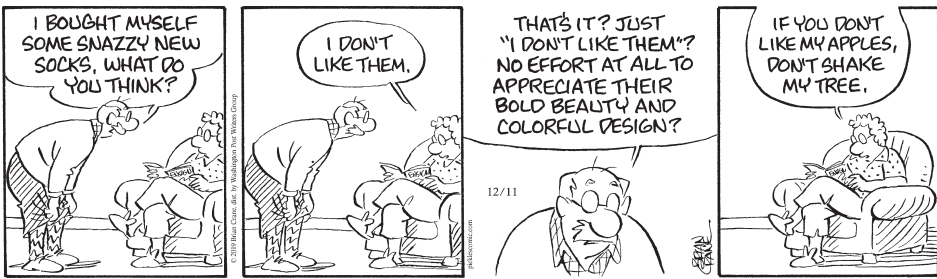
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



We must choose whether to follow the devil’s clever promises or God’s sure Word

Q: Why do people have to insist that their particular religion is the right one and the rest are wrong? Since the gods are more powerful than man, doesn’t it seem reasonable that the gods can sort it all out in the end? – I.W.

A: All peoples, primitive or modern, have acknowledged some kind of deity. Archaeology has unearthed the ruins of many ancient civilizations, but none has ever been found that did not yield some evidence of a god who was worshiped. Man’s concepts of God have been as varied as his moods.

Anyone who tries to rationalize God will fail. The Bible describes the idols (gods) of man. “They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see;

they have ears, but they do not hear” (Psalm 115:5-6).

This was proven long ago in the battle of the gods described in 1 Kings 18. King Ahab confronted the prophet Elijah saying, “Is it you – the biggest troublemaker in Israel?” Elijah identified himself as the only prophet of the Lord present, but there were 450 prophets of Baal. Elijah asked, “How long will you not decide between two choices? If the Lord is the true God, follow him, but if Baal is the true God, follow him!”

The great showdown describes the silence from the gods of Baal, proving that Elijah’s God was the one true God by sending down fire to consume the sacrifice.

This is the great question for humanity. How long will it take to decide between two choices? We must choose whether to follow the devil’s clever promises or God’s sure Word. There are two masters; we must all choose which master we will serve. Choose Christ who lives to bring eternal life.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ G I A S W M G J C A S W X M G I C T C I G B G B F A S W X D C M I K A H V R N S N V C X E C S E M C N V G B O S I A S W , G N ’ D R I S X Z S I D C M I - N S X N W X C . ” — D R X R V D G M J C X Z R B

Previous Solution: “Breastfeeding is this savage ritual that just reminds you that your body is a cafeteria now.” — Ali Wong

TODAY’S CLUE: G s p n b a f

Stories of injured, missing in New Zealand volcano eruption

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Officials say 47 people from New Zealand, United States, Australia, Germany, Britain, China and Malaysia were on a New Zealand volcanic island when it suddenly erupted. Of those, dozens were killed, injured or are missing.

Details are scarce because conditions on the island are too dangerous for officials to return and disaster victim identification experts have only begun their work. Some of the initial information about the dead, injured and missing:

Hayden Marshall-Inman

Hayden Marshall-Inman's brother wrote that the local tour guide had died "doing the one thing he loved."

Mark Inman's social media post was flooded with tributes, well-wishes and memories of Marshall-Inman, who has been celebrated as "a top man who left an impact on the world."

Marshall-Inman was a guide for Whakatane-based White Island Tours and was leading a tour group on a 7-hour day trip from a cruise ship to the volcano when it erupted.

A local supermarket worker described Marshall-Inman's generous spirit.

"Whenever he came in and made a purchase, he always gave us (NZ) \$5 to pay towards the next person's groceries," Julie Lockett said.

"He had the kindest heart, it was never about him; he definitely created a ripple effect of happiness to others," she added.

Tipene Maangi

Relatives have not given up hope for Tipene Maangi, another guide thought to be on the volcano when it erupted.

The 24-year-old's partner, Kuini Morehu-Waenga, suffered through a sleepless night sick with worry and is now "absolutely devastated," the Newshub website reported.

The pair were yet to start a family but have been "inseparable" since they met, it said.

The couple grew up together and were best friends for years before starting a relationship about three years ago.

Maangi began his job with White Island Tours in September and was really enjoying the position, his cousin, Anihera Paku, said.

Maangi's grandmother, who did not want to be identified by name, was at Whakatane Wharf early Tuesday waiting for news.

"We're hoping he may have found a cave but knowing him, he would have been helping others before he thought about himself," the grandmother told NZ Herald.

Lauren and Matthew Urey

American newlyweds Lauren and Mathew Urey have been hospitalized with severe burns after surviving their honeymoon adventure.

The 32-year-old bride's mother, Barbara Barham, who lives southeast of Richmond, Virginia, told The Washington Post that the couple "weren't concerned that there was any chance of

an eruption."

Lauren Urey has undergone surgery for burns to her lower extremities covering at least 20 percent of her body and is recovering in an Auckland hospital. Mathew Urey, 36, had burns on 80 percent of his body and is being treated more than 620 miles away at a Christchurch burns unit.

Half of the 47 visitors on the island when the volcano erupted were Australians and most were from a cruise ship. Authorities say there were 24 Australians, nine Americans, five New Zealanders, four Germans, two Britons, two Chinese and a Malaysian on the island when the disaster struck.

Authorities have not released the nationalities of the five confirmed dead, eight assumed dead or the 31 hospitalized.

But Australia's prime minister has said three Australians are suspected of being among the confirmed deaths, leaving Australian families frantic for news of who they might be.

Families have confirmed that Jason Griffiths, 33, of Coffs Harbor in New South Wales state, as well as Sydney couple Marion London, 56, and Nick London, 58, were in hospitals.

Adelaide family

Frantic father Brian Dallow, of Adelaide, South Australia, said his lawyer son Gavin Dallow, 53, his partner Lisa Hosking, 48, and her daughter Zoe Hosking, 15, were among those whose fates were uncertain.

"They were in the island, that's now been confirmed,

but whether they got off or what happened we don't know," Dallow told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"This is the worst. If we knew that something happened to them, it would better than this waiting, I can tell you at the moment. Because we just have to hold our horses and hope for the best," he added.

The family later said Lisa Hosking had been found in a Hamilton hospital.

Sydney family

Sydney's Marist College North Shore confirmed a Sydney family of four was missing.

Former student Jesse Langford, his 17-year-old sister, Winona Langford, and their parents, Anthony and Kristine Langford, were among those visiting the island from the cruise ship.

"Please have the Langford family in your prayers," principal Duncan Troy wrote in a statement.

Brisbane mother and daughter

A desperate Australian family was also seeking details about Julie Richards, 47, and her 20-year-old daughter, Jessica Richards, who were booked for a White Island excursion on Monday.

The mother's sister, Barbara Whitehead, told the ABC that relatives were "overwhelmed" by a lack of information from authorities.

But there's been no word about the two, despite other checks with New Zealand police, foreign affairs officials, and their cruise company.

Brazil's Bolsonaro calls activist Greta Thunberg a 'brat'

BY MARCELO DE SOUSA and HELENA ALVES
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday called young Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg a "brat" after she expressed concern about the slayings of indigenous Brazilians in the Amazon.

Bolsonaro questioned the coverage news media have given Thunberg, 16, who on Sunday tweeted a link to a story about the murder of two indigenous people in Brazil's Maranhao state.

"Greta said that the Indians died because they were defending the Amazon," Bolsonaro told a group of journalists. "It's impressive that the press is giving space to a brat like that," he added, using the Portuguese word "pirralha."

Following Bolsonaro's comments, Thunberg changed the bio on her Twitter profile to say "Pirralha."

Thunberg became a symbol for youth demanding radical change to confront climate change when she sparked global school strikes.

Her comments about the deaths of the indigenous people came as the U.N. was hosting its international climate change conference, where Brazil's environmental policies have been the subject of criticism. Deforestation of its Amazon rose nearly 30 percent in the 12 months through July.

"Indigenous people are being literally murdered for trying to protect the forrest (sic) from illegal deforestation," she tweeted. "Over and over again. It is shameful that the world remains silent about this."

The remark by Bolsonaro – and Thunberg's reaction – caught the attention of Brazilian environmental activists at the COP25 climate talks in Madrid.

Gabriela Baesse, 27, said that the exchange showed the Brazilian president "doesn't understand the youth."

Marina Silva, a center-left politician and former environment minister under Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration, said Bolsonaro's move was "incoherent" with his leadership position.

"He should not worry about fighting Greta because she showed solidarity with the indigenous that were murdered," Silva said. "He should fight the criminals that murdered the indigenous instead of fighting Greta."

The comment by Bolsonaro, who has frequently expressed his admiration for his U.S. counterpart, follows Donald Trump's sarcastic dig at Thunberg in September. Trump responded to a video of Thunberg discussing suffering people, dying ecosystems and looming mass extinction, saying, "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

World trade without rules? U.S. shuts down WTO appeals court

BY JAMEY KEATAN and PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

GENEVA — Global commerce will lose its ultimate umpire Tuesday, leaving countries unable to reach a final resolution of disputes at the World Trade Organization and instead facing what critics call "the law of the jungle."

The United States, under a president who favors a go-it-alone approach to economics and diplomacy, appears to prefer it that way.

The terms of two of the last three judges on the WTO's appellate body end Tuesday. Their departure will deprive the de facto Supreme Court of world trade of its ability to issue rulings.

Among the disputes left in limbo are seven cases that have been brought against Trump's decision last year to declare foreign steel and aluminum a threat to U.S. national security and to hit them with import taxes.

The WTO's lower court – its dispute settlement body – can hear cases. But its decisions will go nowhere if

the loser appeals to a higher court that is no longer functioning.

Without having to worry about rebukes from the WTO, countries could use tariffs and other sanctions to limit imports. Such rising protectionism could create uncertainty and discourage trade.

"We are in a crisis moment for our global trading system," said U.S. Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla, who sits on the House Ways and Means subcommittee on trade. "As of tomorrow, the court will cease to exist."

The loss of a global trade court of final appeals, Murphy said, is "really dangerous for American businesses."

The panel is supposed to have seven judges. But their ranks have dwindled because the United States – under Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Trump – has blocked new appointments to protest the way the WTO does business.

Trump and his top trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, are especially vociferous

critics of the WTO. They argue that the trade organization constrains America's ability to counter unfair trading practices by China and other countries.

Even other countries have complained about the WTO's system for settling trade disputes. Critics say that cases take too long to resolve, that the panel often overreaches in its rulings and that the Geneva-based agency is ill-equipped to deal with the challenge posed by the Chinese economy's unconventional blend of capitalism and state control.

Getting the WTO to reform is difficult because it requires consensus from its 164 member countries. Trump is willing to use America's economic and political clout to shake things up in a way that smaller countries couldn't.

"Where the United States is completely alone is the approach they've taken, (which) is to say: 'We're just going to blow this thing up,'" said Bernard Hoekman, an economist at the European University Institute.

The impending shutdown was met with dismay by several WTO member countries.

Zhang Xiangchen, China's ambassador to the WTO, said in a statement that he was marking the occasion by wearing the black tie his wife had given him for funerals. Letting the "lights go out" at the appellate body, at least temporarily, Zhang said, is delivering what is "no doubt the most severe blow to the multilateral trading system since its establishment."

The EU commissioner for trade, Phil Hogan, said in a statement that "this is a regrettable and very serious blow to the international rules-based trade system."

Speaking at a news conference Tuesday, WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo said he intended to engage in a round of consultations with a number of WTO member countries including the United States to see if a resolution to the impasse can be found.

"To the extent that this is an extremely sensitive po-

litical issue for everyone, I have no doubt that these consultations will grab the attention of leaders worldwide," Azevedo said.

The EU and other countries have been working to set up an ersatz appellate body – including some former members of the existing appeals panel – to arbitrate future trade disputes. But that's just a stopgap. And it is uncertain how many countries might join in.

The WTO was set up in 1995 to write and regulate the rules of global trade. Earlier, countries had complained that the United States was using its clout as the world's No. 1 economy to unilaterally impose trade sanctions and to strong-arm other countries into limiting exports to America. (During the Reagan administration, Lighthizer was involved in arranging such "voluntary export restraints.")

For its part, the United States wanted more access to foreign markets.

The WTO's dispute settlement process, including the Appellate Body, was meant

to establish that written rules, not arbitrary power, governed global trade.

But the process has proved cumbersome. The appellate panel is notorious for missing deadlines, a problem that worsened as it lost judges. It is supposed to rule within 90 days but last year needed an average of 395 days to issue decisions.

Since 1995, 592 cases have been brought to the WTO (124 by the United States, the No. 1 complainant); the appellate body has issued 120 rulings, covering 162 of those cases. Most of the rest were dropped or resolved outside the WTO process.

Still, a former WTO appellate judge, Peter Van den Bossche, now a professor at Switzerland's University of Bern, last week called the WTO's dispute settlement process "a glorious experiment with the rule of law in international relations."

Its shutdown, he said, would leave countries and companies contending with "the law of the jungle ... the law of the strongest ... and that will hurt us all."

Nobel winner Abiy says 'hell' of war fueled desire for peace

BY DAVID KEYTON and JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — The winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize says his horrifying experiences as a young Ethiopian soldier fueled his determination to seek an end to the long conflict with a neighboring country.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed spoke at Oslo City Hall during the ceremony in Norway's capital where he received his Nobel on Tuesday.

"War is the epitome of hell for all involved. I know because I was there and back," he said in accepting the prize.

Abiy won the prize, in part, for making peace with Eritrea after one of Africa's longest-running conflicts. Abiy served in the army during the war.

"Twenty years ago, I was a radio operator attached to

an Ethiopian army unit in the border town of Badame," he recalled. "I briefly left the foxhole in the hopes of getting a good antenna reception. ... It only took but a few minutes. Yet upon my return I was horrified to discover that my entire unit had been wiped out in an artillery attack."

Abiy, 43, took office in early 2018 and within weeks astonished the long-turbulent Horn of Africa region by fully accepting a peace deal ending the 20-year border conflict with Eritrea that saw around 80,000 people killed.

In his speech, he said stability in the region was strategically important.

"The global military superpowers are expanding their military presence in the area. Terrorist and extremist groups also seek to establish a foothold. We do not want the Horn to be a battleground for superpowers nor a hide-

out for the merchants of terror and brokers of despair and misery," he said.

The peace prize also recognizes Abiy's significant domestic reforms including the release of tens of thousands of prisoners and the return of once-banned opposition groups. But since the prize was announced in October, he has faced growing challenges at home, including bloody protests.

Just days after the November launch of his book promoting his national unity philosophy, protesters burned copies of it in the streets. The protests had erupted after an outspoken activist who had returned from exile asserted that his government-provided security detail was being removed.

The claim came a day after Abiy had warned unnamed people that "if you threaten our peace and security, we will take measures."

The government said 78 people were killed in the unrest.

In Oslo, he called on "my fellow Ethiopians to join hands and help build a country that offers equal justice, equal rights and equal opportunities for all its citizens."

"The evangelists of hate and division are wreaking havoc in our society using social media. They are preaching the gospel of revenge and retribution on the airwaves," he said.

Tensions with another regional power, Egypt, over Africa's largest dam project have led Abiy to talk in terms of war. Ethiopia wants a peaceful settlement of the Nile water dispute, but could muster millions to fight if needed, he said recently.

Residents of the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, packed into hotel lobbies and cafeterias to watch the speech broadcast.

Finland gets world's youngest prime minister, a woman age 34

BY JARI TANNER
Associated Press

HELSINKI — Finland became the country with the world's youngest sitting head of government Tuesday when the Nordic country's parliament chose a 34-year-old woman with liberal views and a down-to-earth style as prime minister.

Lawmakers in the 200-seat Eduskunta voted 99-70 to make Sanna Marin, a Social Democrat who served as transport and communications minister in the outgoing administration, the leader of a five-party, center-left coalition government.

The four other parties in the coalition are led by women – three of whom also are in their early 30s. Marin, the No. 2 official in the Social Democratic Party, succeeds Antti Rinne as prime minister.

Rinne, 57, stepped down a week ago after a key co-

alition partner, the Center Party, withdrew its support, citing lack of trust.

Marin is the third woman picked to become Finland's prime minister. The first, Anneli Jaatteenmaki, served for part of 2003. The second, Mari Kiviniemi, governed for a yearlong period between 2010 and 2011.

Seen as a liberal advocate for climate and environment issues, Marin was raised in a "rainbow family" headed by two women.

She has told Finnish media about growing up in what she described as modest circumstances, past struggles to identify her way in life, and the fulfillment she found in politics.

After the vote in favor of her appointment, Marin reacted with a faint smile. President Saul later greeted her and her Cabinet, which has women holding 12 of the 19 minister positions.

